

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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TRSE-00 /060 W

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R 220940Z NOV 76

FM AMCONSUL MUNICH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7773

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MUNICH 2853

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: CSU DECISION TO ESTABLISH SEPARATE BUNDESTAG "FRAKTION":
THE VIEW FROM MUNICH

REF: MUNICH 2851 AND 2848

1. DECISION OF CSU BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES TO ESTABLISH SEPARATE CSU "FRAKTION" SEEMS CLEARLY TO HAVE BEEN ENGINEERED BY CSU CHAIRMAN FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS WITH HELP OF A FEW LIEUTENANTS. FACT THAT DECISION APPARENTLY TOOK CDU LEADERS AND PRESS COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE SUGGESTS THAT RANK-AND-FILE CSU DEPUTIES DID NOT RPT NOT KNOW IN ADVANCE THAT CREATION OF SEPARATE "FRAKTION" WOULD BE PRIMARY TOPIC OF CLOSED MEETING ON SECLUDED PREMISES OF HANS SEIDEL STIFTUNG.

2. IDEA OF SEPARATE CSU "FRAKTION" IS NOT NEW; CSU "LANDES-GRUPPE" DISCUSSED AND REJECTED IT FOUR YEARS AGO WHEN
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7TH BUNDESTAG CONVENED. STRAUSS' DISSATISFACTION WITH

OHL AND SEVERAL CDU REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND LEADERS SEEMS TO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO HIS DECISION TO MAKE MAJOR EFFORT THIS TIME. THE MAJOR FACTORS, HOWEVER, SEEM TO BE: (A) STRAUSS' CONVICTION THAT CDU AND CSU WILL HAVE BETTER CHANCE OF WINNING BUNDESTAG MAJORITY BY CONTESTING FUTURE ELECTIONS SEPARATELY RATHER THAN IN TANDEM; AND ABOVE ALL (B) HIS DESIRE TO MAXIMIZE HIS ABILITY TO PLAY MAJOR ROLE IN FRG POLITICAL LIFE.

3. BY CREATING SEPARATE "FRAKTION," STRAUSS SEEMS TO HAVE DEALT HIMSELF SOME IMPORTANT NEW CARDS. AS LONG AS HE RETAINS CONTROL OF CSU, HE WILL BE IN POSITION TO STRIKE SEPARATE BARGAIN WITH CDU ON EVERY MAJOR ISSUE BEFORE BUNDESTAG. ALTHOUGH HE HAS DECLARED HE WILL NOT ENTER ANY CABINET WITHOUT CDU, HE HAS NOT EXCLUDED VOTING WITH FDP OR SPD ON SELECTED ISSUES. TECHNICALLY, CSU NO LONGER NEEDS TO CONSULT WITH CDU ON CREATION OF CSU FOURTH PARTY ORGANIZATIONS OUTSIDE BAVARIA. THEORETICALLY, STRAUSS CAN NOW SET HIGHER PRICE, INCLUDING OFFER TO RESUME JOINT "FRAKTION," FOR CSU SUPPORT FOR JOINT CDU-CSU CHANCELLOR CANDIDATE.

4. ON DEBIT SIDE, STRAUSS MAY HAVE THROWN AWAY MUCH OF HIS INFLUENCE WITHIN CDU, THEREBY WEAKENING "SOUTHERN" CONSERVATIVE ELEMENT CENTERED AROUND STRAUSS-FILBINGER-DREGER TROIKA. (CONGEN IS NOT IN POSITION TO ADDRESS ISSUE OF LIKELY EFFECT OF CSU DECISION ON COHESION AND EFFECTIVENESS OF CDU-CSU OPPOSITION IN BUNDESTAG.)

6. CONGEN BELIEVES AREAS TO WATCH INCLUDE: (A) BEHAVIOR OF CSU CONTINGENT OF JUNGE UNION AT JU NATIONAL CONVENTION DEUTSCHLANTAG) IN OFFENBACH AT END OF MONTH; (B) POSSIBLE CSU 4TH PARTY ACTIVITIES IN BREMEN, HAMBURG AND LOWER SAXONY (MUNICH A-50); (C) POSSIBLE CDU EFFORT TO ESTABLISH AFFILIATE IN BAVARIA, ESPECIALLY IN FRANCONIA; AND (D) MANIFESTATIONS OF OPPOSITION TO STRAUSS WITHIN THE CSU, PARTICULARLY IN FRANCONIA AND BAVARIAN SWABIA. BETTS

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